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Public Meeting March 25 for Downtown Estes Loop roadway project

Over the past six months, the Town, together with its partners – Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) – have initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) process including scoping, alternatives development and environmental analysis to evaluate transportation improvement options along three primary roadways through downtown Estes Park: Elkhorn Avenue, Moraine Avenue and East/West Riverside Drives.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Estes Park Event Center, located at 1125 Rooftop Way. A presentation will begin at 6 p.m. followed by time to review materials, make comments and ask questions. The focus of the March 25 public meeting is to explain the screening of alternatives, many of which were put forward by the public. The same information will be provided online at www.downtownestesloop.com beginning March 26. The project partners will be seeking public comments March 25 through April 8.

The Town Board is expected to hear a presentation on the community input received, tentatively at its April 14 meeting, and if necessary make a recommendation from the Town on which alternative(s) should be undergo final analysis in the EA. Public comments will be accepted at the board meeting, although community members are encouraged to submit comments prior to April 8 in order to be included in the Town Board meeting presentation. Comment forms will be provided at the March 25 public meeting and on the project website beginning March 26.

The Downtown Estes Loop roadway project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process began in September 2014 with open houses held in early October 2014 to introduce the project, gather input on transportation issues within the community and potential solutions to alleviate congestion and enhance safety. Subsequent small group meetings and on-going public input have shaped the course of the study. The first step in evaluating alternatives is to develop screening criteria based upon the purpose and need of the project (for example, alleviates congestion, improves safety, etc.). A multi-tiered screening process is underway for this project, beginning with a fatal flaw analysis. Stronger alternatives then move into secondary, more detailed screening. This process, along with preliminary recommendations, will be presented at the March public meeting. The intent is to gather public feedback to help determine the alternative(s) to be evaluated in detail in the EA document. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting and provide input on the project.

Additional information may be found on the project website: www.downtownestesloop.com. To sign up for the project mailing list or submit a comment, please contact info@downtownestesloop.com or call the hotline at 970-480-7045. Town Board meeting information may be found at www.estes.org/boardsandmeetings. More Town news is available at www.facebook.com/townofestesparkco and www.twitter.com/townofestespark.

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